

August 11, 2016

The August 11, 2016 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ruth Pante in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976 followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Ruth Pante, Robert Jewel, Dawn Smith, and Township Committeeman Joseph Watters; Jim McMekin arrived late. Excused were Elaine Drazek and Glenn Todd.

- Mr. Watters reported Warren County is making a Manure Management Plan available to local farmers; interested parties can contact Soil Conservation Service.
- 2016 ANJEC Grant: Ms. Smith reported the Township approved the flyer for the photo contest that offers photography lessons. Two possible photography events are planned to stimulate participation, and suggestions are sought to include Cafferata Park; Greenway; Cherry Tree Bend; Musconetcong River; NJ Fish and Wildlife; Point Mountain Park; Port Murray; Willie's Weiners; Beattystown District. These will be recent photos; all must be in the same format so they can be scanned, saved, judged and posted. Only the winning photos will be shared with ANJEC. A grant progress report is due to ANJEC in September, with all work completed in May; the final write-up is due in June. The judges will be picked from the following suggested categories: Environmental Commission, Open Space Committee, Township Committee, and the Township Clerk who will manage the web site.
- Ms. Smith reported there is \$7,000 available in the Township budget for use on an ERI update. This Commission had believed an ERI update would be needed this year to support a Master Plan update. Mr. Watters said the update would be in 2017, and he explained that under the planning and preservation areas of the Highlands Act changes would be minimal, thus an ERI update should be simple. However, the Land Use Board should be involved, and the effort could be broken down into phases.
- Cafferata Park: Tim Terry has trimmed some of the dead wood from trees planted at the Park, and he will be putting supports on them. Mansfield Fire Department watered them; the Road Department has not watered. Road Department should place five gallon pails for each tree. The bird houses will be taken down for the winter; some vandalism, three replacements.

- Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Co. has submitted an application to NJDEP for a statewide maintenance permit to conduct ongoing maintenance in areas under NJDEP jurisdiction. This will be discussed at the September meeting.
- Mr. Watters has received a flyer from the Fish Hatchery regarding “mosquito fish” being bred at the hatchery, *Gambusia affinis*. These minnows consume massive amounts of mosquito larvae. The County Mosquito Commission knows the problem areas where they can be put to use. The fish are not available to the general public.
- Alison Lorentson was appointed to the Environmental Commission at the January 1, 2016 Township reorganization meeting. She attended only the February 11, 2016 meeting and excused herself from the March 10, 2016 meeting. Members present agreed to send a letter to her to learn her intentions to this Commission; Ms. Smith requested the letter not be sent until further discussion at the September meeting.
- Ms. Smith reported the release in August of a weevil that will help to control the mile-a-minute invasive plant.

MOVED by Mr. McMekin to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:
September 8, 2016**